



**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
Sept 12, 2012, 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Council: Bea Kenny
 Barbara Butters
 Yvon Doucet

Staff: Janice Peyton

Public
Members: Beth Palma
 Paul Ruzycki
 Jack Hellinga

Regrets: Vanessa Deeg
 Chris Lee

1. Call to Order

Chair Bea Kenny called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Beth Palma

That the minutes of June 6, 2012 be accepted as written.
CARRIED.

3. Update on Rebate Programs

Bea Kenny reviewed the status of the rebate programs and the 2012 budget information that was provided by Chris Lee. The committee discussed ideas for the remaining 2012 budget. Yvon Doucet advised that there has been a request for shade trees for Victoria Park, the trees could be planted this year, once the berm is removed. Jack Hellinga suggested the remaining tree rebate funds could be used towards replacing the City Ash trees that have died (Emerald Ash Borer). Paul Ruzycki asked if the Ash trees that have been taken down can be used as fire wood. Staff was requested to provide information at the next meeting regarding disposal costs and procedures.

4. **Council Recommendation re:Participation in the Blue Communities Project**

The committee discussed the recommendation approved by City Council on July 23 2012, **That the Environmental Advisory Committee be directed to investigate and report back on methods of diverting plastic water bottles used during special events from the landfill.**

Staff provided copies of Report 2012-23, Subject: Participation in the Blue Communities Project.

The committee discussed ways to promote recycling to limit the amount of plastic water bottles entering the landfill.

Staff was requested to bring the costs of permanent recycling containers for City parks to the next meeting, the containers would be installed in the parks that are the most used first.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Yvon Doucet

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends to the Special Events Division to use the Regional Water Wagon at Canal Days and Flavors events.
CARRIED.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Yvon Doucet

That any funds remaining in the 2012 Environmental Initiatives budget be used for collapsible water bottles, recycling bins and trees.
CARRIED.

Staff was requested to bring a cost of collapsible water bottles to the next meeting.

Banning water bottles was discussed; however the committee agreed that this was not a practical option.

Committee members were asked to review report 2012-23 for further discussion at the next meeting.

5. **New/Other Business**

Resignation, Curt Benson

To replace Curt Benson, Norbert Geiger has been asked to submit a letter of application to the Clerk's office.

Staff was asked to contact Chris Ventura regarding his attendance at future EAC meetings.

Renewable Energy

The committee discussed using City property for renewable energy.

Moved by Paul Ruzycki

Seconded By Barb Butters

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to City Council that renewable energy possibilities be investigated in conjunction with the East Side Community Improvement Plan and with all future developments within Port Colborne.

CARRIED.

Gardening Incentives

Beth Palma suggested offering free composters to residents who grow extra food for the food bank. The committee briefly discussed this request, as well as rooftop gardens for subsidized housing and teaching the community how to grow their own food. Beth will bring further information to the next meeting as she will be attending a Community Roundtable on Poverty meeting this evening after the EAC meeting.

6. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The committee agreed to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from now on.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 10th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.